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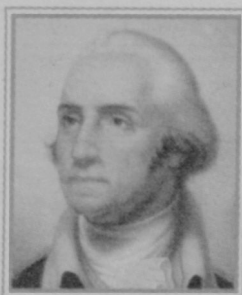
Nota Bene, September 2, 2011

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Largest Earthquake in DC Recorded History Leaves Minimal Damage

By ALEX GIANNATTASIO
News Editor

A magnitude 5.8 earthquake hit the East Coast on Tuesday, making it the largest in DC recorded history. Lasting for more than 30 seconds, the tremor extended up and down the East Coast, and was felt as far north as Toronto, and as far west as Detroit.

The earthquake's epicenter was placed at Mineral, Virginia, about 45 miles north of Richmond, about 90 miles south of the District, within the "Central Virginia Seismic Zone," according to the US Geological Survey. This zone has produced small and moderate earthquakes at least since the 18th Century. According to the USGS, the previous largest of these was an estimated magnitude 4.8 shock in 1875. Earthquakes east of the Rocky Mountains are typically felt over a broader region than their more frequent counterparts on the West Coast, the USGS said.

In response to the quake, the George Washington Law School was evacuated and eventually closed for the remainder of the day. The White House, FBI, DOJ, and all national monuments and state parks in Washington were evacuated and inspected before being reopened. The Pentagon, where flooding occurred, was also evacuated, reports say.

"It seemed to me that people overreacted," said SBA Senator and California native Dean Aynechi. "I guess East Coasters just aren't used to this sort of thing. One lady at my office even broke down in tears, she was so shaken up."

Hours of gridlock traffic followed the tremor, as businesses closed and employees were sent home in droves. Cell phone service was knocked out for several minutes in several areas,

including New York City and the District.

Transportation delays extended to Amtrak service between Washington and Baltimore. Terminal A at Reagan International Airport was evacuated, due to the reported presence of an "odor of gas."

Second year David Bender was in an interview when the earthquake hit. "The best part is we finished the interview, then evacuated 10 minutes later," Bender said. He hopes that the significance of the event will help distinguish him in a tough job market. "If I end up at this firm," Bender notes, "I will forever be known as 'the earthquake guy.'"

Reports of damage to the District are minimal. The National Cathedral, the District's highest building, sustained minor damage to three of its spires, reports indicate. Cracks have also appeared in at least one of the Cathedral's flying buttresses. No one was injured from the falling debris.

The North Anna nuclear power plant, located seven miles north of the earthquake's epicenter, was automatically shut down as a result of the quake. Power was restored to the plant Wednesday morning, after inspection. No issues have been reported. Twelve other nuclear power plants in New Jersey, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland also reported "unusual events" but did not shut down operations.



GW Law staff and students evacuated from the building after the earthquake on August 24.

Photo by Blake Behnke

A Welcome Message from Dean Paul Schiff Berman

I am thrilled to take over as Dean of The George Washington University Law School and to begin what I hope will be many years of productive dialogue with students, faculty, alumni, and prominent lawyers and judges about the future of legal education and how best to position this law school as an innovative national leader. I want to engage the broader law school community—and that means all of you—in a serious discussion of what this school can be. To that end, we will be working to provide more information on the website (pending a more complete design overhaul during the next year or so), I will be posting regular notes regarding the law school and legal education on my blog, and I have instituted weekly drop-in hours that will allow me to meet students without an advance

appointment, and I pledge to stay as long as there are students who want to talk. Moreover, at each of these meetings, I don't just want to hear what you like about the law school; I want to know how we can improve. So, just to get the conversation started, I'm going to use this initial note to discuss some of my preliminary thoughts on the future of the school.

To me, what makes GW distinctive is that we provide a legal education that truly positions students to change the world. Across an almost limitless number of subject matter areas, we offer opportunities for students to engage with national and global policy debates and to address the most pressing

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NEWS

NOTA BENE

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NOTA BENE IS A BI-WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL. NOTA BENE SERVES AS A FORUM FOR NEWS, FEATURES, AND OPINIONS IN THE LAW SCHOOL COMMUNITY. WE SEEK SUBMISSIONS FROM ALL AT GW LAW.

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Get Involved! Join the Nota Bene Staff!

Are you new to GW Law? Do you like to write things besides LRW memos? Do you seek attention but dread being termed "a gunner?" Then the Nota Bene staff is the place for you!

Right now, *Nota Bene* is actively seeking news reporters, opinion columnists, features writers, photographers, astrologers, and perhaps a Don Draper-inspired advertising manager (Bourbon and misogyny not required).

If you are interested in contributing to *Nota Bene*, or even just want more information, please contact us at:

notabene@law.gwu.edu

We look forward to hearing from you!

A Welcome Message From Dean Paul Schiff Berman

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challenges facing the world. Our vast outside placement program, our large number of specialty offerings, our clinical and pro bono programs, and our faculty's commitment to active participation in the real world of law translate into a legal education that leverages our location and creates an experience like no other. It is really true that at GW constitutional law isn't just a course, it's current events.

Yet, we can do more along these lines, for example by creating more "policy incubator" courses that would enlist students to work with faculty from a variety of disciplines to generate solutions to specific policy problems, culminating in a report, congressional testimony, briefing papers, and the like. Alternatively, colloquium courses could connect students to cutting-edge research by scholars from around the country. Increased capstone opportunities in the third year could help bridge the gap from law school to practical law and policy work. And on and on. These experiences will both help train students for practice as it is today, but also position them well for the law practice of the future. And they will connect students with the broader worlds of policy, administrative and constitutional law, regional, national, and international planning, the global infrastructure of trade, finance, human rights, and so on. The law school of the 21st century must be embedded within the concentric circles of communities in which it interacts. We must tackle global problems and work to find solutions, whether that means convening policy summits, developing programs to work with industries, planners, and nongovernmental organizations to consider innovative approaches to vexing problems, training students to engage with social policy, or producing scholarship and policy documents that demonstrate a clear commitment to engage our world.

In addition, while our size is a great strength because it allows us to offer a whole universe of opportunities to students, we must also create a more personalized model, embodying the innovative idea that students can design their own legal education. Thus, we are committed to developing more customized pathways for students, linking courses, externships, policy activities, pro bono projects, and mentoring from leading lawyers to create a comprehensive but tailored legal education. And, whatever the curriculum, it must be taught with a global emphasis. One of the great innovations of the Langdellian case method was that it trained lawyers

to practice in multiple jurisdictions within the United States. But a properly education lawyer today must be ready for transnational and international legal practice. So, no matter the method of education, the content of the entire law school curriculum must include a comparative and international perspective.

Of course, this customized, real world orientation cannot be wholly successful unless our graduates are able to find real world jobs. To that end, I think that the more opportunities we provide for students to connect with mentors in practice, show off their skills through internships, network through policy engagements, and simply participate more directly in the vast world of law, the better the chances that these students can become the go-getters who are inevitably well-positioned to secure jobs regardless of the economic climate. Accordingly, I consider it a top priority that we offer increased experiential, networking, and mentoring possibilities to students, and I aim to work to orient our Career Development Office even more in these directions. When students graduate from this law school, they should feel that this law school did absolutely everything it could to help them in the job market and that our commitment to help with career building continues even after graduation.

Thus, while the challenges that face legal education are significant, with vision and willingness to innovate, we can refashion the mission, the approach, the scope, and the impact of our educational programs. We can provide a wide variety of opportunities for students, we can stress excellence in all that we do, and we can ensure that the law school has an impact on its local, national, and international communities. Only by doing so will this law school remain a dominant institution in preparing our society for the globally-competitive, multicultural environment facing us in the new century. I very much look forward to discussing these and many other ideas with you over the weeks and months to come.

NEWS

A Letter from the News Editor

By ALEX GIANNATTASIO
News Editor

To entering 1Ls, LLMs and of course, transferees, congratulations on your enrollment at George Washington Law, and welcome to the nation's capital.

To returning 2 and 3Ls, welcome back.

My name is Alex Giannattasio, and I will be serving as your Nota Bene News Editor this year. As my first order of business, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce to you the newspaper's News Section and how it will operate under my direction.

In a recent debate hosted by the Frontline Club, moderator Amy Goodman of Democracy Now! began by noting that "information is power." Fundamentally, this proposition underlies the goals of this year's News Section. Over the course of the year, we will strive to provide the George Washington Law School student body and broader community with information that is relevant, interesting, accurate, and above all, empowering. In addition, we take it as granted that objective reporting serves as the starting point of meaningful discussion. Over the course

of the year, we will seek to promote active participation in the public discourse surrounding the many issues we address, as often as possible through the use of social media tools and technologies.

This year, the News Section will undergo some significant changes. Starting in September, the News Section will be reorganized into three subsections: GW Law in the News, GW Law on the News, and Legal News in General. Historically, we have engaged a team of dedicated staff writers to provide thought-provoking, newsworthy content. While this model will be effectively maintained, the duties of our staff writers will be adjusted to reflect the reorganization.

Each staff writer will be responsible for maintaining a small topical news column of about 250-300 words, to be run in each of the semester's five issues. Tentatively, topics will include: Politics: 2012; International Law News; Energy and Environmental News; Important Legal Developments and Recent Case Law; Science, Technology, and the Law; and, the GWSBA. These columns will provide brief objective accounts

of important developments in their respective areas of interest.

In addition, each staff writer will be asked to produce one longer article of approximately 500 words in length per semester, for the GW Law on the News or GW Law in the News subsections. GW Law on the News, will address a different specific issue or occurrence each week. Writers will be required to seek out, with the help of the editorial staff, a faculty or staff member who has experience with the particular issue in question, harnessing the immense pool of expertise available to GW Law students for the benefit of the community at large. The latter section, GW Law in the News, will endeavor to showcase noteworthy activities and accomplishments of the law school community in general.

Considering our goal to promote broader engagement within the community, both the News Section and the newspaper as a whole will accept freelance article submissions from any member of the law school community on an ad hoc basis. Faculty members are encouraged to submit full articles, article ideas, comments, corrections, critiques and praise, at

their discretion—in short, your support is greatly appreciated. Interested student writers should bear in mind that accolades for Nota Bene participation will only be afforded to those writers who consistently meet the requirements of staff writer participation, which with respect to the News Section are listed above. I encourage anyone with experience or an interest in writing to forward us a statement of interest and brief writing sample. Our Editor-in-Chief, Kate Mereand, can be reached at notabene@law.gwu.edu. Prospective writers particularly interested in joining the News Section's staff can also contact me at agiannattasio@law.gwu.edu.

The strength and success of the Nota Bene is fundamentally dependent upon the active participation of the law school community as a whole. Whether as a staff writer, freelance contributor, or student or faculty reader, we insist upon hearing any comments, questions, critiques or tips that you might have. We hope to serve you and the community at large in the best way possible over the course of the coming year. Happy reading!



Photo by Katherine Mereand

OPINIONS

Confirmation Bias in the Information Age

By ALEX GIANNATTASIO
News Editor

We live in the Information Age. Modern technological advances, including the advent of Internet, social media, and the blogosphere, have given consumers free access to an unprecedented supply of news, opinions, and information in general. In 2010, CNN reported that approximately 61% of Americans get at least some of their news online, compared to 54% who listen to news radio and 50% who read print newspapers. Approximately three-fourths of Americans hear of news from email or social media sources, and more 90% say they get their news from multiple platforms. One source pegs the number of blogs currently online at 152 million, approximately one for every two Americans.

The benefits of the modern boon in information technology should be obvious: an individual's access to information is no longer dictated by geographical location, nor limited to the work of a small pool of mega-corporations. As a result, readers can, at least in theory, access a broader range of views from a broader range of sources.

In America, this diversity of sources transcends the traditional left-right political divide often attributed to mainstream media outlets. A conspicuous example is the recent and steady expansion of American and International acceptance of the legitimacy of Al Jazeera, the world's only international news network based in the developing world. Once viewed with suspicion in the West due to alleged extremist sympathies, the network launched its subsidiary Al Jazeera English in 2006 and has since reached over 190 million global viewers, according to Wahad Khanfar, the network's Director General.

But this brave new world of accessible media is not without its drawbacks. Greater consumer control over news and information dissemination places the responsibility for gaining the benefits of a diversity of viewpoints more squarely on the shoulders of the consumer. With so many information sources available, and only so many hours in the day, information consumers can very easily fall into what Chuck Todd, NBC News chief White House correspondent and host of MSNBC's *The Daily Rundown* calls the "trap of confirmation bias," by which, on the one hand, consumers seek out information sources which confirm personal preconceptions and biases, and on the other hand, journalists and media personalities strive only to reach established audiences.

Generally, the confirmation bias phenomenon has been well understood by psychologists for decades. The quintessential illustration of confirmation bias invokes a thought experiment: a teacher writes a series of three numbers on the blackboard—2, 4, 6—and asks her students to determine the rule associated with the series by writing their own series of three different numbers. As each student presents his series, the teacher confirms or disconfirms—with a simple "yes" or "no"—whether the series falls within the bounds of the rule. Most students produce a series of three even numbers separated by a sum of two, such as 10, 12, 14 or 24, 26, 28, all of which receive a confirming "yes." The teacher then asks the class to accurately identify the rule—and no one can. In fact, the rule simply calls for any three numbers listed in ascending order—for instance 1, 2, 3, or 100, 200, 500. In essence, the constant stream of confirmation bias narrowed the vision of the students to see a broader picture.

This phenomenon is particularly pervasive in and applicable to the world of media today. In an interview with *The Atlantic*, Chuck Todd explained the problem of confirmation bias in the Information Age as follows:

"Let's say you're a 9/11 conspiracy theorist and Facebook or Google knows it. Eventually you only get updates based on your point of view. It's easy to fall into this trap... You believe this to be true and you keep reading content that confirms your bias."

To combat confirmation, being aware of our own natural desire for affirmation is half the battle. Step two is to actively seek out the antithesis of our own conceptions, a skill that is particularly pertinent to the legal profession. Subscribe to mainstream as well as alternative information sources, international as well domestic media sources, and the opinions of those politically opposed to your own points of view. Use comment sections and forums to engage in discourse with people of a broad range of outlooks and experiences. Most of all, don't be afraid of being proven wrong; in the long run, it can be a beneficial and personally enriching experience.

In today's world of unregulated information dissemination and large-scale global tribulation, with a little effort it is not only important but also fundamentally possible to move beyond the easy confirmation of old modes of thought.

Rain Dance

By KATHERINE MEREAND
Editor-in-Chief

In this economy GW Law students need to be optimistic, driven, and passionate about a few choice areas of the law. While the same could be said of anyone interested in a job in the field of law even during boom times, the imperative during an economic depression like the double-dip we are experiencing today is sharpened to a painful point. The most fascinating and capable individuals—without an obvious showcase for their passions, their interests, and their talents—face the prospect of securing a job that is a poor fit leading to poor avenues for advancement and happiness, or worse no job at all.

Such prospects create fear about the next couple of years, quietly, in the hearts of many law students. But thinking about the next couple of years is not enough, and it is not a roadway to the achieving most successful possible career for law students today. The long-term health of our careers depends on long-term planning beyond short-term strategies. Such planning is hard when uncertainties proliferate and certain inalterable realities predominate the minds of [most] law students: loans, grades, and the shrinking legal job market.

Everyone knows that the job market shrank. How everyone reacts, however, is subject to a degree of variation. Panic is usually hidden but for some it bursts out during times of significant stress, like during finals. For some depression creeps in but is also generally suppressed. Many simply close fears away entirely by closing out thoughts about the future leading to an underinvestment in planning and preparation. These are troubling reactions particularly when not expressed openly—even if they are fairly common and natural. It is perhaps a shared psychosis created by the overall economic condition permeating the US and most Western economies, but it also exacerbates those conditions.

Not to drive fear into 1Ls as fear is counterproductive, but never forget that it is easy for law students to assume that they are brilliant and talented people. In general we are. It is also easy for law students to assume that most work places would benefit by bringing them on staff. In general, most work places would benefit greatly to have any GW Law graduate in their employ. Being brilliant and talented is simply insufficient in this economy. Those who succeed most will set themselves apart from the pack of brilliant and talented people by bringing yet more to the table. What was previously required to succeed is what will be required, for us, to tread water in our careers.

The plain fact is that we were dealt a difficult hand. Traditional paths to success will be objectively more difficult for us to follow than those who came before us. The state of the economy today very likely lessens our lifetime potential, as longitudinal studies like the work of Yale economist Lisa Kahn show that students of most degree programs who enter the work force during an economic recession of any sort usually face negative, long term consequences that are not of their own making. In March 2010 *The Atlantic* published an article spelling out the various troubles our cohort is likely to face, based upon the experiences of those who came before us. We are likely to be less confident in switching jobs and therefore stay in less than ideal positions. We will have fewer peers in positions to assist us in the traditional ways that networking works. We will likely face a persistent wage gap regardless of our merit.

The future, in this economy, is a bit bleak. We cannot let that matter. If GW Law students give in to the overall mood of the economy consciously or subconsciously, that mood consisting of deflated consumer confidence and business simply refusing to hire or expand production, they will do themselves and their peers and grave disservice. Falling victim to that psychosis will simply hamstring attempts to overcome the challenges we must face.

In this economy pessimism can be a death knell for a job search, and it can be a contagion. Pessimism rarely sells well in an interview, and arguably it is audible in a cover letter too. We need acknowledge but then to seek to overcome bleak thoughts in ourselves and others, including our peers and potential employers.

Optimism on demand and on display is a crucial tool for a job seeker. Because unlike the well-meaning warnings the law school is faithfully issuing to 1Ls in these first few weeks of schools, to batten down the hatches on all personal information and pictures of oneself online for the realistic fear of embarrassing oneself, I am proposing a more engaged approach to creating one's future. By all means students should clean out anything embarrassing and keep away from future embarrassing situations. That is necessary but not sufficient.

After removing anything negative, GW Law students must build something positive. Names should be Google-able and if possible a top hit. Someone who wants to know who a GW Law student is and what they find interesting in the law should be

FEATURES

Law Students Leave Junk for the SBA to Clean Up

By KATHERINE MEREAND
Editor-in-Chief

Books and lunches. Umbrellas on the locks when it rains. Work out clothes, work clothes, and “emergency” ties or heels. Overnight bags. Toiletries. Necessities. The odd case of wine (believe me, it happens).

The humble lockers that the SBA rents to students in singles and in pairs have seen a lot of use. They are locked and stickered (mostly with Apple stickers), kicked and sometimes jammed full. And every summer someone has to clean out the remnants and scraps left behind.

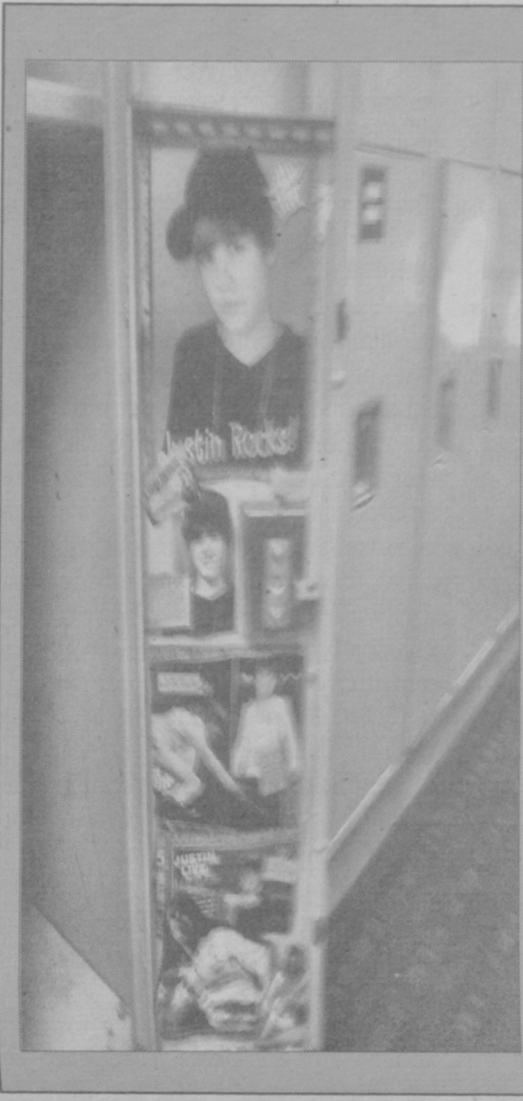
This year was no different, and this year the SBA was greeted with a cache of a few personal effects, a lot of food, and an absolute surprise.

A few individuals clearly cared about their personal fragrances at one point, as they left behind sticks of deodorant, bottles of ‘black bear’ cologne, and 11 sample sizes of Armani perfume.

In a festive food binge, other left behind a complete easter basket full with a large chocolate bunny, Godiva truffles, a box of peeps, and a chicken that lays bubble gum eggs.

One unnamed individual last year apparently kept no books in their locker, as it was filled to overflowing with food. In this one locker alone the SBA found a pound of peanuts, a full-sized box of Ritz crackers, a 16 oz. bag of trail mix, a bag of pretzels, a tin for Danish butter cookies full of tea bags, a Clif bar, a 7-hour energy shot, five boxes of fruit roll-ups, box of granola bars, and a can of ‘spicy thai seasoned tuna medley’. In addition this classmate stored a cutting board and two inspirational posters.

However, one among us takes the prize for the most daring locker detritus left behind. One student kept a Justin Beiber tribute in their locker. Whether that tribute was intended unironically or in jest, you be the judge.



One GW student felt the need to display their Bieber Fever in their locker, and left it behind over the summer, where it was discovered by the SBA.

Photo from an anonymous source

What I Wish I Had Known As a 1L

By DAVID KEITHLY
Opinions Editor

Welcome to another school year and the year's first issue of Nota Bene. This is technically the opinions section, and I assure you that I plan on writing a lot of more serious opinions, and some even based on legal topics. This is not one of those. We just got back (or just got here for all you newbies.) So in the spirit of warm-ups, I'm starting off slow. This week, I'm gonna drop some knowledge on you. You're welcome in advance.

1. Chris is the nicest woman in the world.

You pass her every day at school. Some of you may have already asked for directions or struck up a conversation with her. If you haven't already, I recommend you introduce yourself to the lady with the glowing smile who sits behind the desk between the hard lounge and the soft lounge. She'll probably remember your name. She will definitely be a source of comfort and positive reinforcement throughout the year. Also, she has a stash of plastic forks in case you need one for lunch. Speaking of lunch...

- 2. If you pre-order online from Potbelly you don't have to wait in line.**
- We don't have Potbelly where I come from, and I fell in love immediately. There's one within walking distance, but if you go during lunchtime, there will be an extremely long line. Instead of waiting in line, try ordering your sandwich online. By the time you walk over, your sandwich will be waiting for you and you can bypass all the people who didn't read this article. In other food advice...
- 3. If you're willing to live entirely off of Domino's pizza, you'll never go hungry at GW Law.**

One thing you'll quickly learn is that most of the student organization meetings, speaker sessions and even Lexis/Westlaw trainings have FOOD! Forgot a lunch and don't want to brave the lovely DC seasons? No problem. Just go to one of the announcement boards and pick an event (hmm, Bird Law symposium in LL101). There will be food and WiFi.

But law school isn't all sandwiches and pizza, onto more serious fare...

4. You don't have to write up a brief for every case. Multi-color highlighting and margin notes will save time that you can spend doing what you really want to do: watching TV.

You learned how to brief cases in orientation. Don't worry, you weren't the only one who was completely lost during the explanation. The professor might have suggested that you write out a separate brief for every case you read. The professor was wrong. While it's important to recognize the issues, rules, applications and conclusions, there is no need to re-type them onto a separate brief. We're not in data-entry school; we're in law school. Here's what I recommend: buy five different color highlighters and assign each color to one of the following areas – facts, issue, rule, application and conclusion. Add to your highlights a few margin notes and you'll have everything you need when you get cold-called.

I know what you're thinking – 5 different colors of highlighters, how

am I supposed to afford that? I'm glad you asked:

5. You should never have to pay for another pen, highlighter, flag or post-it.

If there's one thing that's more abundant at GW than free Dominos, it's free school supplies. They're everywhere. Everyone who comes to campus trying to sell stuff will give away supplies by the handful. In other money-saving tips...

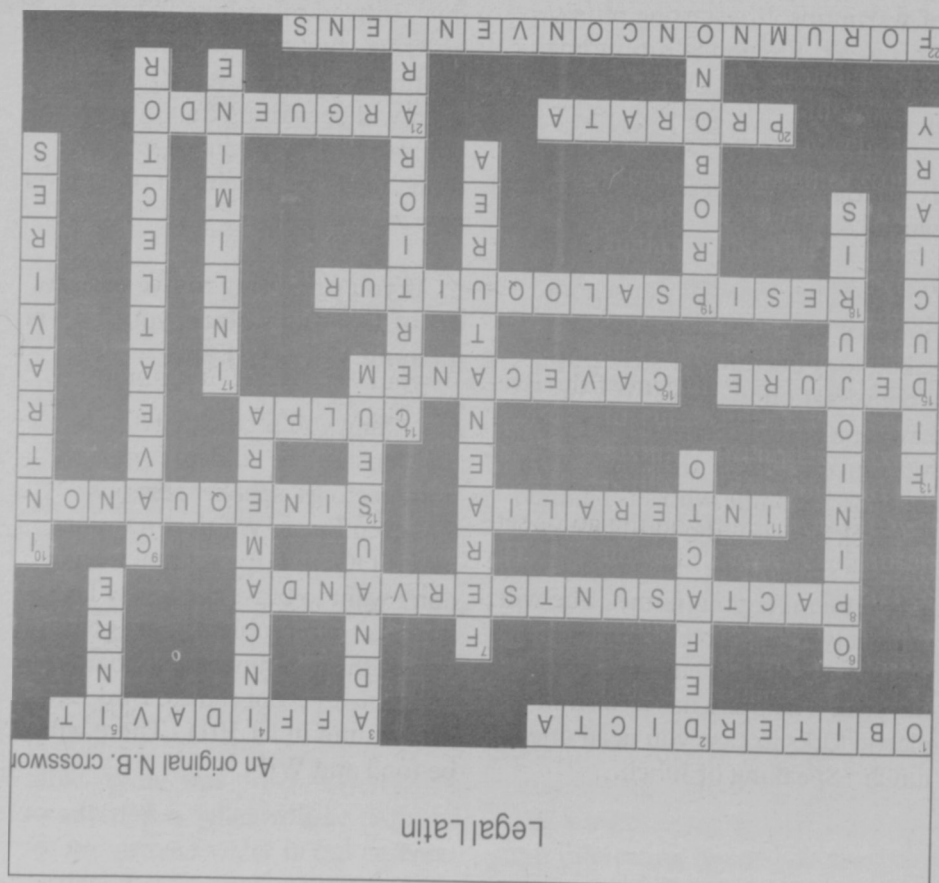
7. Marry someone who works for GW, or if you're already married, find your spouse a job at GW.

If you do this, you will get half off your tuition bill. Amazing, right? On a related note, please say hello to my wife if you should run into her at the GWorld office.

6. You can buy real stuff with Lexis/Westlaw points.

It's true – Lexis and Westlaw are like the drug dealers of law school. They give us free unlimited access and all kinds of free stuff when we're young and impressionable. But then once we're hooked, they

Sexism in the College Athletics Pay-for-Play Debate



FEATURES

Get Acquainted with the District

By STEPHANIE LEVITT
Guest Writer

Whether you hail from Korea, England, Pakistan, or Pumpkintown, South Carolina, you've made it to GW Law. Congratulations! You're an official resident of the District of Columbia. And you will remain so for the next three-to-four years.

If you're still feeling a little foreign in the city, don't panic. DC has something for everyone, whether you are a self-defined museum nerd or a happy hour connoisseur. To get acquainted with the District, check out some of these lesser-known activities and hot-spots recommended by long-time locals.

Kayak on the Potomac

Are you tired of walking yet?

If so, check out DC while sitting... in a beginners' kayak floating down the Potomac. You can pass by the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial in just one hour, all while giving your tired tootsies a little break.

"Kayaking was awesome," says Section 13 1L Melanie Taylor. "It's definitely a nontraditional way to see the city, but a great way to bond with classmates, get some exercise, and have some fun all at once."

No needs to worry about inexperience, since the kayaks at Jack's Boathouse (located right next to Key Bridge in Georgetown) are exceptionally stable and don't have skirts. Single-person kayaks are \$14 per hour and lockers are available for a nominal fee. Also, don't forget to bring a waterproof camera for photographic evidence of your outdoor experience in Washington, DC!

Catch Up With Caffeine at Pound

Law school sure can get stressful. Sometimes, it's nice to swap the electrified air of 20th and H for a calmer, less crowded coffee stop.

"Two words. Nutella lattes," informs Holly Trogon, President of the Evening Law Student Association at GW.

Grab some caffeine on-the-go or settle in for a quiet afternoon of studying. Pound is tucked away near the Eastern Market Metro and is typically open from 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the weekdays.

Travel From Printing Press to iPad

The Newseum (News-eum), located

at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Sixth Street, N.W., is dedicated to taking visitors "behind the scenes to experience how and why news is made." It features both traveling and permanent exhibits ranging in topic from the Berlin Wall, 9/11, the First Amendment, and even presidential puppies (First Dogs: Presidential Pets in the White House). These edgy exhibits are sure to both inform and entertain simultaneously.

The museum is open from nine to five daily and tickets cost \$21.95 per person but are good for two consecutive days. Take note: on September 10 and 11, admission to the Newseum will be free to commemorate the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001.

Visit the Monuments Like a Local

Here's your chance to maneuver DC like you've lived here for years. Prove your pride by visiting the well-known American monuments, but dodge the heat, evade the crowds, and experience the majesty and splendor in a whole new light – by going at night.

The illuminated Lincoln, forever immortalized in marble, commands the darkness from his seat 57 steps in the air. The Vietnam War Memorial, stunning in its simplicity, is all the more powerful as you follow the seemingly endless wall of names in the silence of night. In the darkness, one is particularly drawn to the expanse of names, lit up only by spotlights on the ground.

Continue to traverse the National Mall and encounter the National Monument and the World War II Memorial. All of the monuments are spectacularly lit and even more awe-inspiring when surrounded by darkness.

Now that you can strike "Become a GW Law student" off the list, relax a little and allow yourself to be enveloped by the sixty-nine square miles of your new locale. It's vibrant, chic, and flooded with history, good food, and great happy hours. Enjoy!

What I Wish I Had Known As a 1L

Continued from Page 5

start charging through the nose for the same services they used to just give away. But there's an upside – more free stuff. A friend of mine (who will remain nameless for reasons that will soon become obvious) saved up his Lexis points to buy a \$160 Lego pirate ship on Amazon. Once you amass enough points, you can trade them in for Amazon gift cards or other goodies. Also, it's probably important that you learn how to use Lexis and/or Westlaw. Speaking of learning things...

7. It's not just you; everyone hated LRW.

Even though LRW is your only 2-credit class, you will spend more time on LRW assignments than you will for any other class. It's terrible. We know. Everyone's been there. It's one of those rights of passage for every GW Law student. With that said, no other 1L class will be quite as valuable when you start doing actual legal work. LRW is the one class that teaches you how to do the kind of work you'll likely do as an attorney.

8. Commercial outlines will save your life.

Some professors do what's called "hiding the ball." It means they do a lot of talking, but never really tell you what you'll actually need to know for the final. Instead they assume that if you listen closely enough to their brilliant monologues or Socratic attacks, the rules will just become engraved on your soul. Instead what usually ends up happening is you find yourself at the end of the semester with 90 pages of notes full of ramblings in no particular logical order. Here's where commercial outlines come in. They'll organize the subject for you, highlight the important rules and do it in a way that actually makes sense. Use a commercial outline as a framework for your outline, throw in 3-4 salient points from your class notes and voila! You will be the proud new owner of your first "customized" law school outline. And now a few words about finals and grades...

9. Your midterm grade doesn't matter.

Okay, that might be a bit of an overstatement. You should still study for your midterm...but even if you do extremely poorly, you can still get a good grade in the class. So if you bomb on the mid-term, don't

drop out or kill yourself. Instead go talk to your professor, see what you could have done better and then do that to prepare for the final. The mid-term is just an opportunity to see what law school exams are like in a relatively low-pressure environment. Take advantage of the opportunity.

10. You probably did better than you think you did OR you probably did worse than you think you did on the final. The moral of the story is that you probably have no idea how well you did.

Finals are strange – sometimes you may think you nailed it... and the professor disagrees. Other times you may think you bombed... and the professor disagrees. Maybe the moral of the story is that professors like to disagree. My advice – do your best to prepare for your finals, then as soon as you walk out of a final, don't think about it anymore. There will be scores of your classmates talking about the questions and their answers. These people will do nothing but freak out. All the thinking or worrying in the world won't change a single word you wrote during those three hours, so move on. Just remember that nobody ever really fails out of law school, they just lose scholarships.

Finally, a word on 1L summer jobs...

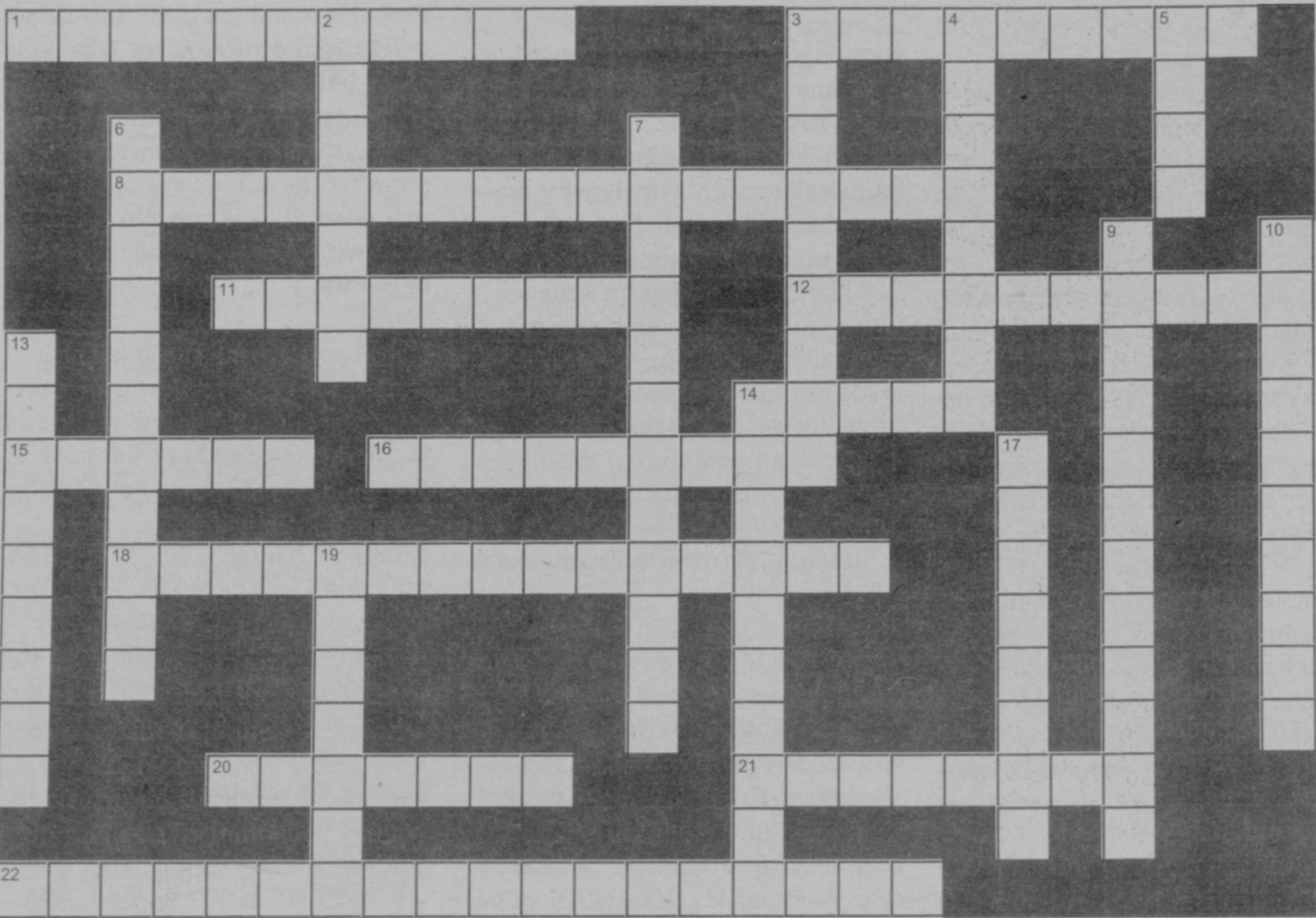
11. You don't have to have a 1L summer job lined up by mid-January. I know you don't even want to start thinking about summer jobs at this point, and that's good. So just file away this tid-bit for second semester. The CDO will tell you that you should try to line up a summer job in January. There are benefits to lining up a job this early. For one, the employer never gets a chance to see those first-semester grades before making a hiring decision. However, if you don't have a job lined up by 1/31/12, don't worry. Lots of employers don't even start thinking about hiring until March or April. In fact, a lot of paid positions don't open up until halfway through Spring semester.

So there you go. Now go forth and learn.

THE BACK PAGE

Legal Latin

An original N.B. crossword.



- Across**
- 1. said by the way (plural)
 - 3. sworn statement of fact
 - 8. promises must be kept
 - 11. among other things
 - 12. essential condition
 - 14. guilt
 - 15. by right
 - 16. beware of dog
 - 18. the thing itself speaks
 - 20. proportional
 - 21. for the sake of argument
 - 22. inappropriate forum

- Down**
- 2. regarding fact
 - 3. repeated to the point of boredom
 - 4. in the chamber
 - 5. in the matter of
 - 6. opinion of law
 - 7. wild animals
 - 9. let the reader beware
 - 10. within the power [of]
 - 13. trustee
 - 14. to show, prove, or ascertain
 - 17. at the threshold
 - 19. for the public good

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Ideas for upcoming stories?

A crush on one of our writers?

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A.J. Kornblith

Korn Feed

